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1945-09-29 Alfred P. Maurice Letter to Dolores Robson

Alfred P. Maurice, 1921-

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Saturday 29 September 1945

(20)

Dear Sweet Darling;

Here it is, another Saturday night spent alone here in the barracks. They are all such lonely nights when you aren't with me. Long and so very lonely. It seems that the day shall never come when you shall fill my lonely hours with pleasure and delight, and yet, the only thing that keeps hope alive in me is the feeling that at the end of this enforced exile I shall find you waiting for me, beautiful, fresh, and so very loving and tender. Never did any man have as much to look forward to as I have, or so much to miss as I miss you. Lovely Darling, you are the dearest and most wonderful woman in the world and I am the luckiest man, being loved by you and loving you.

There was no mail today, I hope there shall be some tomorrow. Your letters are our only link now. Our only physical link that is, because there is between us a spiritual link stronger than any that ever was. They are so nice to receive. It is nice knowing that here on paper is something you wrote to let me know what you are doing and what you are thinking about. It brings me close to you.

It sounds from your last letter, as though you are going to like working in the library. The work should not be too hard and should be fairly interesting, and it is work with which you are familiar. I never before knew that state libraries mailed out books as you say you have to do. I imagine you don't care too much for the typing end of the job.

It is very nice that you have a large window near your desk. Librarians usually bring pictures of dark dungeon-like caverns lined with books. I am

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glad that this is not the case and that you have some scenery to gaze out upon and plenty of light to work by.

How often do you have to work on Saturdays? It would be nice to get a whole months vacation by working 9 Saturdays but I'm afraid you won't be able to take advantage of any vacation, because by that time I hope to be back home and then you shan't have to worry about a vacation at all. You will have a job then in which there will be no time off, and yet it shall be a job where all your time will be a vacation, as much so as I can make it at least. I should be back by late winter if only they will do a lot less talking and a lot more acting. These damned people and their argument are slowing things down as much as are these regular army men who hate to see the size of the army decreased. They make splendid statements about how fast they can transport men back home and then they let 20,000 men stay in the depots here for a month because they can't get transportation for them. It sounds funny when you stop to think that they mustered enough shipping together to carry almost a million men up to the Philippines at one time while they were still supplying a fighting army ~~in~~ in another theater. All is not well and my proboscis scents the odor of some slightly putrid fish in the air. They just don't want to get us home. I feel so damned impotent to do anything though. All I can do is just sit over here and sweat it out.

Mac was up to see me today. He is being transferred to the staff of The Pacifican very soon. I'm glad for him because he will be much better off doing newspaper work. It will be good experience for him.

since he is so interested in journalism. He will be bring in town when he does transfer and I shall be able to get in to see him, & vice versa, more easily than before.

There was the devil to pay today. I don't think I told you before about our having reveille every morning but we do have it. We roll out at 6.30 and stand at in the driveway while roll is called. This morning I didn't hear either the bugle or the whistle and I slept right through the whole procedure. When I did wake up, I found that only two of the 17 fellows in the barracks had been out there, fifteen of us had overslept. There were a total of about sixty men absent. As if that were not bad enough, they took a roll call at retreat this evening and found that more than 100 men were absent. The battery Commander announced that we were going to have a personal inspection every week because of this. Of course we all knew that we were going to have the damned inspection anyway because the Chief of Staff let them know he wanted to make such an inspection. What? You want to know whether I was present at retreat? Well, no — but I had an alibi for that. They are really getting chicken around here now and are going to try to make things just as miserable for us as they can. I don't think any of the fellows give a damn anyway. If they all feel the way I do about this thing, they are going to do as little as possible and get away with everything they can, as long as ^{they} can. I intend to do just as little work as I can possibly get away with, except for work for myself.

I was surprised to find that my kid sister has taken up smoking. She never said a thing to me. That's the way it is is it? She takes you into her confidence

more readily than she does me. She thinks quite a bit of you Honey so you can just give her a friendly word of advice here and there. She is ~~rather~~ alone at home since she has no sister her age and Mom may be very good hearted but is hardly understanding. I think Pauline probably does go out a little too much and could be in a little earlier but Mom does not know how to approach her on the subject and, consequently, Pauline resents it when Mom or Dad speaks to her. It is too bad you're not there with her because she would listen to you.

Mom and Dad are nice but I don't think any of us could go to them with any of our problems. This is the way it is in most homes. I don't want it to be like that with our children Darling. I ~~it~~ like to have their full confidence. I hope I shall and shall try to gain it. It is so very much nicer for kids if they can talk their problems over with their parents. I do not like the idea of parents being very much aloof from their children, a sort of denigod arrangement as it were.

So everyone is having babies and you can't even be married with me so far away. Even if we were married, you still would not be having a baby because we decided that we would wait until I had just about finished school, so things really would not be too much different right now even if we were married. Of course it would make a great difference when I returned because it would mean that there would be no waiting to be married, that we could just walk right into one another's arms and satisfy this terrible longing that we have for one another. This is as it should be but as it cannot be for we shall have to wait to be married. I warn you now Darling, that if we are alone

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as we had the opportunity to be many times, that you will be hard put to hold me off. If you want very badly to hold off until our wedding night you had better check up on some good stout chastity belts for anything less than that will be all too ineffective. We will just have to be married as soon as possible when I return Darling. I do not care a whit for the idea of ~~wait~~ waiting almost a month before I can make you my bride. I want to do that just as soon as possible. I hadn't stopped to think that Tommie will probably not be out of the Navy by the time I get home. That will be bad because I had hoped to have him as my best man. If Tommie cannot be there I'll see about getting Doc. He will be someone we both know. I do hope that Tommie can make it though. That would be very nice.

You asked if I thought I would be nervous when we were married. I really don't think so Honey. If I am nervous it will only be because you are so close to me and that would make me nervous anytime. If I have any particular feeling which overshadows the rest, it shan't be nervousness, it shall be unmitigated joy. I shall be by far the happiest man in the world for I love you so very much my Darling and shall continue to

Always
Freddie